

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SAM-01 /067 W

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O 080454Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 604

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON UNN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2274

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TH

SUBJECT: STATUS OF GOVERNMENT FORMATION

REF: A. BANGKOK 2239; B. FBIS BK 071039Z FEB 75

1. THE THAI NATION PARTY IS SPEARHEADING AN EFFORT TO FORM
A COALITION GOVERNMENT AROUND THE 18 "ALLIED PARTIES" WHICH
SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORTED PRASIT KANCHANAWAT FOR HOUSE SPEAKER.
REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE PARTIES MET AT THAI NATION SECRETARY
GENERAL CHATCHAI CHUNAWAN'S HOUSE FEBRUARY 7 TO DISCUSS THE
COMPOSITION OF A GOVERNMENT. IF THIS EFFORT IS SUCCESSFUL,
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EITHER CHATCHAI OR THAI NATION LEADER PRAMAN ADIREKSAN WOULD

BECOME PRIME MINISTER. ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES THE SOCIAL ACTION PARTY WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE COALITION AND KHUKRIT PRAMOT WILL BECOME DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ACCORDING TO THE "BANGKOK POST" OF FEBRUARY 8, HOWEVER, KHUKRIT DENIED THAT HIS PARTY WOULD JOIN THE "ALLIED PARTIES" IN FORMING A GOVERNMENT, SAYING THAT HIS PARTY STILL SUPPORTS THE DEMOCRATS BUT WOULD NOT DEMAND MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS IF THE DEMOCRATS GET IN.

2. THE APPOINTMENT OF PRASIT AS HOUSE SPEAKER WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD AS OF NOON FEBRUARY 7. ONCE THE KING SIGNS THE APPOINTMENT, PRASIT CAN OFFICIALLY SOUND OUT THE POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE SELECTION OF A PRIME MINISTER. SPECULATION IS THAT HE WILL FIRST ASK THE DEMOCRAT PARTY WHETHER IT CAN FORM A GOVERNMENT WHICH THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE CAN SUPPORT. SINCE THE DEMOCRATS ARE UNLIKELY TO MUSTER A MAJORITY, PRASIT WILL THEN ASK THE SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY, WHICH WILL DECLINE ON THE GROUNDS THAT ITS LEADER IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE. THAI NATION WILL THEN GET ITS CHANCE AND WILL PROPOSE A GOVERNMENT WHICH IT CLAIMS WILL HAVE THE BACKING OF ABOUT 150 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE.

3. A STUDENT DEMONSTRATION AT SANAM LUANG FEBRUARY 8 WAS PEACEFUL. STUDENT LEADERS URGED THE NEXT GOVERNMENT TO REVOKE THE THAI EXPLORATION AND MINING COMPANY (TEMCO) MINING CONCESSION, AND CLAIMED THAT HOUSE SPEAKER-ELECT PRASIT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANTING THE CONCESSION TO TEMCO. KINTNER

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